

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 13, 14 and 17-19 are pending, with claim 1 being independent. All pending claims have been amended. Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice.

In Office Action Summary (page 1), the Examiner indicated that claims 9-11 and 15 were withdrawn. However, on page 2 of the Office Action, different claims are indicated as being withdrawn where the Examiner indicates that claims 10-11 and 15-16 have been withdrawn. In the Response to Requirement for Election of Species dated May 20, 2005, Applicants elected the species shown in Figure 2 with claims 1-8, 12-14 and 17-19. Thus, claims 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 have been withdrawn by applicants. Appropriate correction of the U.S. Patent Office's records is requested.

Claims 1-8, 12-14 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,388,348 (Heyden).

The inventive drive system is configured so as to form an additional radially-bound space without, however, increasing the axial length of the inventive drive system. See Specification, paragraph [0009].

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the centrifugal mass is profiled with a radial receiving space and that a clutch comprising at least one component spaced radially inwards from the electrical machine is disposed in the receiving space.

Heyden teaches a clutch that has all of its components spaced axially from the electrical machine. Therefore, Heyden does not have all of the elements as recited in amended claim 1, which is, thus, patentable over Heyden.

Claims 2-8, 12-14 and 17-19 directly or indirectly depend from amended claim 1 and benefit from its patentability.

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 12, 2005